GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:92
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2016
Assistance to Tackle Drought
Singh Shri Devendra (Alias) Bhole Singh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of farmers committing suicide on account of drought prevailing in various parts of the country;

(b) the details of the districts which have been identified/declared as drought affected districts and the number of farmers who have committed suicide in each of these districts during 2015-16;

(c) whether the Government has made any assessment of the loss of the crops due to drought and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(d) the assistance sought and provided to various drought affected States during the last three years and the current year, State-wise indicating reasons for mismatch between allocation and release of funds; and

(e) the number of farmers benefited so far under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana being run by the Government to deal with the natural calamities like drought etc. alongwith the details of financial assistance provided to these farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
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(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 92 DUE FOR REPLY ON 22ND NOVEMBER, 2016.

(a) & (b): The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides, in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). These Reports on suicides upto 2014 are available on its website. The Reports for the subsequent years (i.e. 2015 and 2016) have not been published yet. During the year 2014, out of 969 farmers' suicide due to farming related issues, 491 were due to Natural Calamities. The list of districts declared as drought affected by the concerned State Governments during 2015-16 is at Annexure − I.

(c) & (d): The State Government is primarily responsible for taking necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. For undertaking relief measures, funds are available with the State Government in the form of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for natural calamities of severe nature and is approved on the basis of Memorandum received from the State Government, in accordance with established procedure. Assistance under SDRF/NDRF provided is for immediate relief and not by way of compensation for the loss suffered. The details regarding cropped area damaged by 33% and more in the drought affected States as reported by the State Governments are at Annexure-II. Govt. of Gujarat had declared semi scarcity in 06 districts of the State during Kharif 2015. However, no memorandum was submitted by the Govt. of Gujarat seeking financial assistance from NDRF.

Details regarding assistance sought and approved for drought from NDRF in the last three years and current year are at Annexure-III. The reasons for mismatch in assistance sought for by the State Governments and amount approved by the Govt. of India is due to following reasons;
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(i) Agriculture Input Subsidy is calculated on the basis of the latest published Agriculture Census (2010-11) data on percentage of Small and Marginal Farmers (SMF) & average landholding of those other than Small and Marginal Farmers (OSMF) in the State and thereafter, assistances recommended to SMF & OSMF as per the criteria/guidelines dated 08.04.2015 issued by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for providing assistance to the farmers from NDRF/SDRF.

(ii) The demand of States in other Sectors is also examined in accordance with the criteria/guidelines dated 08.04.2015 issued by MHA for providing assistance to the farmers from NDRF. In some cases, the State Governments demand assistance for items which are not admissible as per the existing norms vide the guidelines dated 8.4.2015.

(e): As per provision of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), admissible claims are worked out on the basis of yield data generated from Crop Cutting Experiment (CCEs) submitted by concerned State Government to the insurance companies. Hence, the numbers of beneficiaries (to whom the claims are paid) are known only thereafter. The cut-off date for receipt of yield data for Kharif 2016 season is one month from the final harvest. There still is time for this and as on date details of beneficiary farmers are not known.